

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 TUNIS 00592 251659Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-02 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07  
LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-05 IO-13  
OC-06 CCO-00 HA-05 SY-05 MCT-01 OPR-02 A-01 CA-01  
CU-04 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 L-03 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02  
SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /115 W  
-----007938 251715Z /64 40

O 251630Z JAN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9699  
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY RABAT  
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TUNIS 0592

BRUSSELS AND PARIS FOR LABATT

E.O.11652: GDS  
TAGS: ELAB PGOV TS  
SUBJ: SHOWDOWN BETWEEN TUNISIAN GOVERNMENT AND UGTT

REF: A) TUNIS 587 B) TUNIS 549

1. AS OF NOON JANUARY 24, IT APPEARS THAT NEITHER GOVERN-  
MENT NOR TRADE UNION MOVEMENT (UGTT) WILL BACK DOWN OVER  
GENERAL STRIKE DUE TO BEGIN MIDNIGHT TONIGHT AND LAST  
24 HOURS UNTIL MIDNIGHT, THURSDAY, JANUARY 26. BOTH  
SIDES SEEM EVEN TO WELCOME SHOWDOWN--UNIONS PERHAPS IN  
DESPERATION. WHILE GOVERNMENT REMAINS CONFIDENT IT CAN  
CONTROL SITUATION, IT HAS BEEN ACKNOWLEDGED THAT TRANS-  
PORTATION SERVICES WILL PROBABLY NOT OPERATE TOMORROW.  
THE ENGINEERING STAFF HAS TOLD US THAT ELECTRICITY  
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MAY BE CLOSED SOWN. GOVERNMENT, OBVIOUSLY, MAY OVER-  
RULE ANY SUCH DECISION ON ELECTRICITY.

2. WE HAVE RELIABLE EYEWITNESS REPORTS THAT DISTURB-  
ANCES LAST NIGHT INVOLVING LARGE NUMBER OF DEMONSTRATORS  
AND POLICE WERE PARTICULARLY NASTY. SINCE THERE HAS  
BEEN NO ATTEMPTED GENERAL STRIKE IN 22 YEARS OF

TUNISIAN INDIPENDENCE, NO ONE IS PREPARED TO SAY  
WHAT WILL HAPPEN TOMORROW. STRIKE COULD FIZZLE  
COMPLETELY, AND GOVERNMENT CERTAINLY HAS STRENGTH  
ON ITS SIDE; BUT DISTURBANCES LAST NIGHT SUGGEST  
THAT UGTT HAS LOST FIRM CONTROL. IF TEENAGERS AND  
UNEMPLOYED YOUTHS SHOULD GET OUT OF CONTROL, SITUATION  
COULD BECOME SERIOUS. BUT SO FAR TUNISIANS IN ALL  
WAKLS OF LIFE SEEM TO BE ADOPTING USUAL PRUDENT,  
CAUTIOUS ATTITUDE. UNDOUBTEDLY, PASSIONS IN UGTT  
ARE HIGH AND FOR THAT REASON NO ONE IS ENTIRELY  
CONFIDENT THAT ALL WILL GO WELL.

3. WE ARE IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH BOTH SIDES AND ARE  
TAKING CERTAIN SECURITY PRECAUTIONS JUST IN CASE.  
MULCAHY

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** UNION GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, LABOR STRIKES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 25 jan 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978TUNIS00592  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780037-0587  
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**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t19780122/aaaaasiw.tel  
**Line Count:** 77  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
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**Litigation History:**  
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**Message ID:** c04d09e0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
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**Reference:** 78 TUNIS 587, 78 TUNIS 549  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 05 jul 2005  
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**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3713652  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SHOWDOWN BETWEEN TUNISIAN GOVERNMENT AND UGTT  
**TAGS:** ELAB, PGOV, TS  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/c04d09e0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
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